Gene from Amaranthus plant

1566. SHRI G. G. SWELL
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gene isolated from Amaranthus plant, as claimed by Ashis Dutt of JNU is capable of insertion in rice plant and other crops;

(b) whether the above process would produce best protein for human consumption as claimed by Shri Dutt;

(c) whether it is a fact that Shri Dutt is trying to get his invention patented at International Level;

(d) what is the procedure for patenting invention or research and what is the cost for the same, and

(e) whether this invention would be patented by Indian Authorities if applied for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). The gene isolated from Amaranthus Plant by Ashis Dutt of JNU is reportedly capable of insertion in rice plant and other crop plants. The aminoacid composition of Amaranthus protein corresponds closely to the standards of protein for optimum human nutrition as recommended by World Health Organisation.

(c) Shri Ashis Dutt has filed an application for grant of patent on his invention with the concerned authorities at international level.

(d) and (e). The Patents Act, 1970 and The Patents Rules, 1972 contain the procedure and the rate of payable fee for grant of patent. The patentability of an invention is decided as per the provisions of the above said Act and Rules.

Crop Insurance by GIC

1567. DR. RANBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that presently the General Insurance Corporation is doing crop insurance in selected states and for selected crops only;

(b) whether there is any proposal to expend the scheme in the entire country;

(c) whether it is a fact that presently only the bank loanees are covered under crop insurance;

(d) whether there is any proposal to expand the scheme to all farmers irrespective of the fact whether they are loanees or not;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the present crop insurance scheme is covering only selected crops and limited perils; and

(f) whether there is any proposal to expand the scheme to cover all crops on all risk basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). At present Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is implemented by General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) on behalf of Government of India and State Governments. The scheme is voluntary for states and covers wheat, paddy millets oilseeds and pulses.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. At present there is no proposal to expand the existing CCIS to cover all farmers.

(e) and (f). The present CCIS covers all risks (except war and nuclear risk) on area approach basis. It covers wheat, paddy, millets; oilseeds and pulses crops. At present there is no proposal to extend coverage of existing scheme to all crops.

Drought relief Programmes

1568. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated under Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) in Kuchh region of the Gujarat State during the last three years, year-wise particularly in Mandvi and Mundra Talukas;

(b) whether the Mandvi and Mundra